

## **REMARKS**

As a preliminary matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1 and 3-7.

As a second preliminary matter, claims 8, 10, 22, and 53 stand objected to for informalities. Claims 8, 10, 22, and 53 have been cancelled without prejudice herein, rendering the objections with respect to these claims now moot.

Claims 10-22 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi et al. (Applicants presume the Examiner is referring to U.S. Patent No. 4,978,890 to Sekiguchi). Claims 10-22 and 28 have been cancelled without prejudice herein, rendering this rejection now moot. Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis (Applicants presume the Examiner is referring to U.S. Patent No. 3,777,199 to Davis), in view of Sekiguchi. As discussed above, claim 8 has been cancelled without prejudice, rendering this rejection now moot.

Because the only amendments submitted herein are the cancellation of claims which have been rejected and/or objected to, Applicants submit that these amendments are merely formal in nature, that they raise no new issues requiring further search or consideration by the Examiner, and are therefore appropriate and necessary for entry after final rejection.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application, including claims 1, 3-7, is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

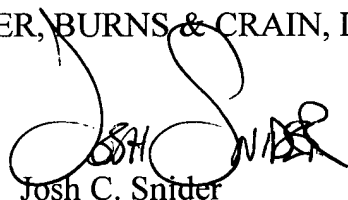
GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

**Customer No. 24978**

March 7, 2005

300 South Wacker Drive  
Suite 2500  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
Tel: (312) 360-0080  
Fax: (312) 360-9315  
P:\DOCS\2803\66027\864775.DOC

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. C. Snider", is written over the printed name.

Josh C. Snider

Registration No. 47,954